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(d) combining a water-soluble or dispersible SO_x sorbent component having a free energy of formation from about 0 to about -90 Kcal/mole at 350°C., and a finely divided, high surface area refractory oxide with an aqueous liquid to form a second solution or dispersion which is sufficiently dry to absorb essentially all of the liquid;

(e) forming a second layer of the second solution or dispersion on the first layer; and

(f) converting the second platinum component in the resulting second layer to a water-insoluble form.

RESPONSE

This Amendment and Response pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.75 and §1.143 is in response to telephone calls between Examiner Vanoy and applicant's attorney, Richard Negin, on 1 November 2002 and 20 November 2002 in connection with the above-identified patent application in which claims 1-118 were subjected to a restriction requirement and a multiplicity requirement.

In a telephone conversation on 1 November 2002 between Examiner Vanoy and Richard Negin, the Examiner issued a restriction requirement to Group I claims 1-73 (catalyst) and 106-118 (method to make) and Group II claims 74-105 (method of use). Applicant provisionally elected Group I, claims 1-73 and 106-118.

In another telephone conversation on 29 November 2002 between Examiner Vanoy and Richard Negin, the Examiner issued a multiplicity requirement requiring applicant

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to select a specific number of claims. It was agreed to limit the Group I claims to 20 claims. Applicant has the option to elect 20 claims from the claims set forth in Group I or to file a Preliminary Amendment before 2 December 2002 including claims directed to the subject matter of Group I. Applicant has filed this Amendment electing 20 claims from the claims set forth in Group I, specifically claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 8, 9, 20, 21, 29, 34, 39, 40, 41, 42, 48, 60, 62, 63, 106, and 109.

In view of the foregoing Amendment and Response, applicant requests reconsideration pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §112 and allowance of the claims pending in this application. Applicant requests the Examiner to telephone the undersigned attorney should the Examiner have any questions or comments which might be most expeditiously handled by a telephone conference.

Respectfully submitted,

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